

## **REMARKS**

The amendment introduces to Claim 1 the limitation recited in the presently cancelled Claim 2.

The invention is directed to the treatment of water containing significant content of TOC with ozone. The treatment results in water having reduced content of organic compounds.

As presently amended, the water to be treated contains TOC of more than 2 ppm, at least 0.1% of dissolved carbonic acid or carbonates and 2 to 20 % common salt.

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shigeniwa et al (Japan 06-269786).

Shigeniwa's disclosed a process for treating tap water with ozone for the purpose of removing musty-odor matter. There is nothing in the document relative to water containing salt at the presently recited level. As presently amended Claim 1 concerns water containing salt in an amount of 2 to 20 wt. %.

The rejection is believed overcome by the present amendment.

Claims 2, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shigeniwa et al in view of Sanyo, Japan 05-269469.

Claim 1 (directed to the embodiment of the presently cancelled Claim 2) relates to the process wherein water contains a high concentration of common salt; Claims 5 and 6 are directed to the process wherein the source of the water is specified.

Sanyo disclosed a chlorine generator that converts chloride in trap water to chlorine, discloses nothing relative to water having high salt content and therefore adds to Shigeniwa nothing that is presently relevant.

Reconsideration of the rejection and its withdrawal are requested.

Claims 3, 4, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shigeniwa et al in view of Bennett (U.S. Patent 4,085,015) or Mucenieks (U.S. Patent 4,323,437)

Bennet concerns with electrolysis of saline solutions that contain iron and manganese impurities. Pretreating of the solutions with hypochlorite solutions is said to prevent formation of deleterious deposits.

Mucenieks disclosed removal of oxidizable impurities from sodium chloride brine. The process entails adding hypochlorite to the brine.

It is not seen how or why any of the secondary references may rationally be combined with Shigeniwa for any purpose much less for the purpose of denying patentability to the claims at issue.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully urged.

Believing the above represent a complete response to the Office Action and that the application is in condition for allowance, applicants request the earliest issuance of an indication to this effect.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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